(c) the action taken to provide for public-private partnership in this area?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Tourism does not collect separate information on medical tourist traffic to India. The steps taken by the Government to promote medical tourism include promotion in overseas market through brochure, CDs, films and other publicity material.

Inauguration of Travel and Tourism Fair

2467. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Travel and Tourism Fair—a supermarket of tourism products with 150 participants, including 11 State Governments and six countries, was inaugurated in Bangalore in the Month of January, 2008;

(a) if so, whether the fair has participation from partner country Nepal, Egypt, Malaysia, etc.;

(b) if so, to what extent this fair has helped the participated countries;

(c) to what extent this fair has helped the States to increase the inflow of tourists; and

(d) whether any concrete proposals were also discussed on how to improve the increase of tourists' traffic between these countries?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) to (e) The purpose of participation in such fairs is to have a visible and effective presence, to create awareness about tourism products and eventually attract tourists to the participating States/countries. However, no estimates are made about the increase in inflow of tourists on account of participation in such fairs.

Foreign tourists visiting India

2468. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India ranked only 42nd in international tourist arrivals in 2006 with 4.4 million visitors according to the World Tourism Organisation, while the highest number of tourist arrivals were in France with 80 millions with first place and China with 50 million in the fourth place;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether inspite of better connectivity and the "Incredible India Campaign" the country failed to attract foreign tourists;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to improve the tourism sector?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) As per the figures released by United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO), the top 4 countries in the world in terms of international tourist arrivals in 2006 were as under: